



United States
of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 110th CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

Vol. 153

WASHINGTON, TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 2007

No. 175

Senate

The Senate met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable JON TESTER, a Senator from the State of Montana.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Almighty God, our gracious King, You are the one clear power of love in the midst of lesser powers. Thank You for giving us the confidence to know that You hear and answer prayer.

Use the Members of this body as ambassadors of reconciliation. Help them to create laws that will bring wholeness to a fragmented Nation and world so that You might be glorified. Teach them, Lord, how to discover Your love in each other and to see Your beautiful image in all of creation. Lord, settle them down into a contemplative stillness so that they will find joy in righteousness, justice, and charity. May they speak wise words from a reservoir of wisdom that will transform discord into symphonies of peace.

We pray in Your sacred Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable JON TESTER led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. BYRD).

The assistant legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, November 13, 2007.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable JON TESTER, a Senator from the State of Montana, to perform the duties of the Chair.

ROBERT C. BYRD,
President pro tempore.

Mr. TESTER thereupon assumed the chair as Acting President pro tempore.

MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR—H.R. 3495 AND H.R. 3685

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I understand there are two bills at the desk due for a second reading.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will report the bills by title for the second time.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 3495) to establish a National Commission on Children and Disasters, and for other purposes.

A bill (H.R. 3685) to prohibit employment discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation.

Mr. REID. I object to any further proceedings at this time, Mr. President.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Objection is heard. The bills will be placed on the calendar.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

SCHEDULE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, we will proceed to executive session to consider the nomination of Robert Dow to be U.S. District Judge. That will take place immediately. The confirmation of that nomination is slated to occur at 10:10 this morning.

Following this vote, the Senate will go into a period of morning business until 12:30. That time is equally divided between the two parties, with the first portion under the control of the minority, with Senator DORGAN controlling 30 minutes of the majority's time.

At 12:30, we will recess for our regular party conferences and reconvene at 2:15. The Senate will then resume consideration of the farm bill.

There are a number of things I am going to speak to the Republican leader about in a few minutes, and then I will have another statement later in the day to talk about what we can expect in the next few days. This is the last week prior to the Thanksgiving holiday. This will be a busy week. We hope it doesn't spill into next week.

Tomorrow, Secretary Rice and Secretary Gates will brief Members on the current situation in the Middle East. That briefing will begin at 2 p.m. in S-407.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Republican leader is recognized.

WISDOM OF BENJAMIN FRANKLIN

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, right outside this Chamber stands a statue of Ben Franklin. According to the Office of the Senate Curator, sculptor Hiram Powers received a contract from President James Buchanan himself to sculpt Franklin back in 1859. The statue arrived in the Capitol in 1862 and has been in that spot ever since.

Franklin wrote many famous aphorisms that live on to this day, and I wanted to talk about one of my favorites.

Two hundred eighteen years ago today, Franklin wrote to a friend words that will long outlive most

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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